

could not live with myself if it happened, and, respectfully, you could not live with yourself if it happened because you now know it can happen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to say to Senator FEINSTEIN how much I appreciate her leadership on this in the Appropriations Committee. I wish to say to the chairman of the committee how much I appreciate his understanding of what we are going through in our State with historic rains, historic flooding. I thank the Appropriations Committee for listening to Senator FEINSTEIN when she transmitted a request from the two of us and also from our Governor. This is a bipartisan request.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter written to Senator COBURN from Governor Schwarzenegger. I also ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD information regarding the Sacramento region.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA,  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,  
Sacramento, CA, May 2, 2006.

Hon. TOM COBURN,  
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COBURN: I am writing regarding your proposed amendment to the supplemental appropriations bill that seeks to block additional funds needed to repair California's Central Valley levee system.

As you may know, I am working very closely with Senator Feinstein and members of the California Congressional Delegation to secure additional federal funds to share in the costs of repairing California's Central Valley levee system. The need for funding and quick action could not be more urgent and that is why I have made it my top priority to work with our State Legislature to enact a major infrastructure bond initiative that would dedicate \$2.5 billion in state funds for urgently needed levee repairs along this federally authorized flood control system.

Our work to restore structural integrity to our levee system began over a year ago. We cannot wait for a disaster to strike and must use the lessons of Katrina and act now. Prior to Katrina, New Orleans had a 250-year level of flood protection. Sacramento has a 100-year level of flood protection. This is the lowest of any major city in the United States. It is only a matter of time before there is a significant levee breach or system failure. Such an event would flood valuable farmland that produces food for the entire nation. All of Sacramento and other Central Valley towns would be flooded. According to modeling done by the City and County of Sacramento, a single levee breach would cause flooding in many areas of the City with depths over 15 feet. A flood event of this magnitude would cut off Southern California's water supply. Such an event would also cause a major economic disruption in California and across the nation. Most troubling is without action, the lives of thousands of Californians are at risk.

As you know, Senators Feinstein and Boxer have worked very closely with Chairmen Cochran and Domenici to include funds in the pending supplemental appropriations bill for certain levee and flood control im-

provements in the Sacramento region. These funds are for identified improvements that can be completed this fiscal year in federally authorized flood control projects.

I support these funds and want to assure you that this is a necessary and urgent time for Congress to act. Moreover, any investment at this time decreases the chances that Congress will have to respond in the future with another far more expensive emergency funding bill to address a widespread flood disaster in California.

I ask that you recognize this as necessary emergency funding and support this as part of the supplemental appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER.

THE SACRAMENTO REGION IS AT GREATER RISK OF FLOODING THAN ANY OTHER MAJOR U.S. METROPOLITAN AREA—FULL FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP IS CRITICAL TO PROTECTING THIS VITAL REGION

#### SACRAMENTO: A REGION AT RISK

The city of Sacramento is at the confluence of two great rivers, the Sacramento and the American. And while these rivers help shape the Sacramento region's identity, they also pose a very real, very serious risk—flooding.

A catastrophic flood will devastate lives, property and the economy. Nearly a half-million residents who make the city of Sacramento their home will be impacted. That number grows to over 2.2 million people within the six-county region surrounding the city. Regionally, one million jobs will be affected by a catastrophic flood and the direct and indirect economic loss of property and economic activity could total nearly \$30 billion. The Sacramento region represents over \$73.3 billion annually in gross regional product.

A major flood in the Sacramento region will send economic shockwaves rippling throughout the region and state. These include serious impacts to principal transportation arteries such as interstates 5 and 80, railway thoroughfares, and Sacramento International Airport. This jeopardizes over \$2.6 billion in Central Valley agriculture and livestock production—a vital national resource.

The Sacramento region is a civic, commercial, healthcare and economic hub for greater California and must be protected. The Sacramento region serves as the capital of California—the world's sixth largest economy. Sacramento area levees protect nearly one million acres of farmland in the Sacramento Valley. At least 10 major hospital facilities are found within the region. In addition, the Sacramento metropolitan region serves as a "nucleus" for state and federal civic activity, providing a home to 1,300 government facilities supplying over 200,000 public sector jobs.

Given all that the city, region, state and even the nation stand to lose, it is astonishing that the Sacramento region has the lowest level of flood protection of any major U.S. metropolitan area. The 1986 high-water event demonstrated the region's population centers are extremely vulnerable. It is estimated that six hours of additional rain during that time would have led to catastrophic failure of the region's flood protection system.

Since 1986, federal, state and local interests have invested over \$400 million in levee improvements, reservoir re-operations and floodplain restoration, but critical flood protection deficits, including erosion, stability, levee heights and underseepage, still exist. These deficits prevent the Sacramento region from achieving even 100-year flood pro-

tection in many places and have made flood protection the Sacramento regional Congressional delegation's number one public safety issue.

Sacramento must achieve a minimum of 200-year flood protection immediately.

#### FULL FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP: A CRITICAL ELEMENT

While local and state leadership are unified in making flood protection a priority, it is essential that FY 2007 appropriations fully fund the \$89,240,000 federal share of Sacramento's authorized flood protection program. Appropriations are critical to continuing levee improvements on the Sacramento and American rivers and Folsom Dam—a necessary part of protecting the region's livelihood and achieving a minimum of 200-year flood protection.

Similarly, it is essential that federal partners support and reward state and local efforts to enhance flood protection. These efforts, which are sustained by state and local funding initiatives, should be incorporated into the traditional federal/local flood protection partnership using appropriate crediting and reimbursement arrangements. This is necessary in order to expedite project permitting, contracting, and construction activities.

Mrs. BOXER. I am going to read part of this letter. He says:

Our work to restore structural integrity to our levee system began over a year ago. We cannot wait for a disaster to strike and must use the lessons of Katrina and act now. Prior to Katrina, New Orleans had a 250-year level of flood protection.

And then the Governor says:

Sacramento has 100-year level of flood protection.

That is optimistic. Most experts tell us that it is an 85-year level. And whether it is 85 years or 100 years, it is the lowest of any major city in the U.S.

The Governor writes:

It is only a matter of time before there is a significant levee breach or system failure.

This is important for the Senator from Oklahoma to hear. I know he has been very gracious in filling me in on this and saying: I didn't go after your other items but just this one. But the fact is, this one is as important as all the rest. The Corps has told us they need these funds to move forward.

Here is what the Governor says:

Such [a flooding] event would flood valuable farmland that produces food for [our] entire nation.

I say to my friend from Oklahoma, please, listen to us, because the food supply for the entire Nation is at stake, according to Governor Schwarzenegger, Senator FEINSTEIN, myself, and a bipartisan delegation in the Congress.

The Governor says:

All of Sacramento and other Sacramento Valley towns would be flooded. According to modeling [that has been done], a single levee breach would cause flooding in many areas of the City with depths over 15 feet. A flood event of this magnitude would cut off Southern California's water supply.

I say to my friend from Oklahoma, in this body we are all equal, two Senators from every State. We have 37 million people in my State. Sacramento is a huge growth area. I will get into the